



Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minute of the 212th Monthly Meeting of the Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District held in the Old Council Chamber, Chambers Institution, Peebles on Thursday 14th of August 2014

Present: C. Carleton, D. Horsburgh, A. Kubie, G. Mackie, L. Morrison, E. Smith, A. Snoddy, A. Stewart (Chairman) and M. Tolhurst.

In attendance: SBC Councillors: S. Bell and K. Cockburn.

1. **Open Forum:** Jason Hedley, Neighbourhood Area Manager for Tweeddale, gave a presentation on the measures proposed to enable a £450,000 budget saving over the next five years. The services under review are :

- Grounds Maintenance
- Street Cleaning
- Bereavement Services
- Public conveniences

Mr Hedley acknowledged that voluntary community groups such as Bonnie Peebles contribute greatly to the maintenance of the flowers beds and attractiveness of the town generally but it will be necessary for these voluntary groups to do even more. Mr L Bell representing Bonnie Peebles and the Callants observed that there were far fewer members of either group than when they were established and his concern was that they could not cope with what SBC was expecting them to do. Plenty of time should be given to consider what was required and what could be achieved. Insurance was a major concern but Mr Hedley thought that this would be covered because SBC would be making grants to the Community Groups to cover some of the expense of the work.

It was decided that a public meeting would be held in the Burgh Hall which would provide an opportunity for the various community groups to discuss what is practical and achievable. The deadline for the new cooperative scheme to be up and running is April 2015. Mr Hedley was asked to profile the savings to be made against current expenditure and what further savings will be required to be made in the future.

2. **Apologies:** L. Foster, G. Rennie, R. Tatler, SBC Cllrs: W. Archibald, C. Bhatia, G. Garvie, G. Logan and PC. D. Sorrell

3. **Minute of Meeting of 12th June 2014:** Acceptance of the minute was proposed by G. Mackie and seconded by A. Snoddy. The minute was approved and signed by the Chairman, A. Stewart.

4. **Matters arising:**

- **Tweed Island:** Report circulated. It is unlikely that chemical control will be permitted.
- **Peebles in Bloom:** Update circulated. Nearly ninety guests have been invited and all members are asked to help. The Chairman thanked Mrs Snoddy for all her hard work.
- **Tour o'the Borders:** Cllr Bell reported that all the participants said thank you to all the people involved and to those residents who were inconvenienced and that they appreciated cycling on closed roads. The Chairman noted that Mr Dalgleish had admitted that the B7062 was 'by far the worst affected part of the course'. A. Kubie said that she had spoken to residents and businesses along the road and in the end matters were sorted out if not satisfactorily at least so that no real damage was done. However everyone considered the action to have been taken too late and could have been avoided by better and earlier communication.
- **Minutes Secretary:** Mrs Leena Crichton has agreed to act as Minute Secretary in return for an honorarium.

- **SBCCN meeting:** A. Snoddy had circulated her report on the previous meeting and G. Mackie is to attend the next meeting on 1st October.
 - **First bus:** The Leader of Edinburgh City Council, Councillor Andrew Burns had replied to the letter sent by the Community Council requesting his response to the reasons that First Bus gave for the change to a terminus at Waterloo Place. This has been circulated but in brief the City Council is in favour of a return to a terminus at the Bus Station. A copy of Cllr Burns' letter has been sent to First Bus for comment but there has been no answer to date.
5. **Police report:** circulated.
6. **Chairman's report:** John Swanson requests that all Community Councillors sign up to the SBAlert messaging system. A letter of thanks had been received from Douglas Wright and circulated. The problems with the car park in the Meldons had been referred to Manor, Stobo and Lyne Community Council. Two High School pupils will be managing the Community Council web-site.
7. **SBC Councillors:**
- **Cllr Cockburn:** Priorsford Bridge is to be closed for renovation. He had spoken to Ian Williams and the schools have been notified and the advice for all users of the Bridge is to go to the puffin crossing to cross Kingsmeadows Road after crossing Tweed Bridge.
 - **Cllr Bell:** The current SBC administration has reviewed its progress through its plan for the term and has produced a leaflet summarising this, copies of which Cllr Bell distributed.
8. **Reports for approval:**
- **Treasurer's report:** circulated. M. Tolhurst will step down in October and G. Mackie has graciously agreed to take over.
 - **Bonnie Peebles:** circulated. A Kubie will circulate a request for another Community Council representative on the Bonnie Peebles committee. The Community Council needs to work more closely with Bonnie Peebles.
9. **Planning report:** a very comprehensive review of all issues in hand had been circulated. Cllr Bell was able to advise that the Forestry Commission is very keen to become involved with helping to develop a 'Tweed Valley Resort'. He also recommended that the Community Council should write to the Planning Department to express all its concerns regarding the development of the town and community and copy in the SB Councillors.
10. **Any other business:**
- **Raising the profile of PCC:** A stall in Sainsbury's has been booked; rota to be issued next meeting.
 - **NHS Borders consultation:** L. Morrison agreed to look at the draft and to reply with a copy to A Kubie.
- Action: LM**
11. **Date for next meeting:** 11th September 2014 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.